

March 28, 1984

LB 561

SENATOR DECAMP: Hold on a second. Mr. President, I want it to say the opposite of what I have got it saying.

CLERK: By striking steroids and leaving in...

SENATOR DECAMP: Right, in other words they have two items in there. One are steroids, one are the antivirals. My amendment would say, okay, doctors, you don't want them to use antivirals. We'll eliminate the antivirals, however, you would still retain the steroids. We've obviously got enough legislative debate to show that they have to be handled very carefully and any training is going to handle that. You've heard the arguments on both sides but this would give at least half of what is being sought by the medical profession in this amendment.

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Richard Peterson, do you want to talk on the amendment to the amendment? Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: I would certainly agree to this amendment, had it in the first place. In the second place I would like to tell you about steroids. They must use steroids if they are going to reduce the infection in the first place. And he is right about the fact that they can cause many, lots of problems, whether it is taking the external part of the eye or internally, they can cause a lot of problems. But who in the world is going to monitor that more than an optometrist or an ophthalmologist? It has to be monitored. You don't know whether they have got an ulcerated cornea there, what is happening, unless you have a slit lamp that you can see it and it has to be monitored. Now a doctor will use prednisone many times. An M.D. will use prednisone on an eye which is strictly a shotgun approach believe me. That is just strictly a shotgun approach but it can cause a lot of problems. The reason it can is because he can't monitor. Someone has to monitor that and it takes a slit lamp to do that. There is no other way to do it and M.D.s don't have it. They have no use for it and they don't have to have one. So consequently steroids are something they will have to use but they have to be monitored and no one is better qualified to do it than either an ophthalmologist or an